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Before the  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary  
Washington, D.C. 20554

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In the Matter of: ) CC Docket No. 93-22  
) RM 7990  
Policies and Rules Implementing )  
the Telephone Disclosure and )  
Dispute Resolution Act )

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Comments of  
TELE-PUBLISHING, INC.  
Boston, Massachusetts 02215

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

## STATEMENT OF INTEREST

Tele-Publishing, Inc., Inc, is a four year old audiotext information provider and service bureau, located in Boston, Massachusetts and serving the 800 number and 900 number needs of more than one- hundred-and-fifty newspapers, and about fifty other corporate clients nationwide. Tele-Publishing, Inc. operates in every state. Tele-Publishing, Inc. and is an affiliate of the Phoenix Media/Communications Group, Inc. a corporation which holds a variety of broadcast and print media properties.

Tele-Publishing, Inc. has participated actively in the global development of the audiotext industry and in the development of the Telephone Disclosure and Dispute Resolution Act before committees of both houses of Congress and has been active through various industry associations in the effort to self-regulate the audiotext industry, develop technical standards and better inform the American information consumer.

*Because of this unique perspective, Tele-Publishing, Inc. enters these comments in support of those filed by the Information Industry Association and the National Association for Information Services, which Tele-Publishing, Inc. has assisted in the development of, but also seeks to put forward the unique perspective of a multi-media company engaged in the creation, sale and distribution of voice information services.*

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## SUMMARY


Tele-Publishing, Inc. has never resisted meaningful and legitimate efforts to protect the consumers of voice information services. We recognize that the industry must make a dedicated effort to educate consumers as to their rights and responsibilities in the information age, particularly as they pertain to the use of new technologies and billing mechanisms like pay-per-call.

Tele-Publishing, Inc. also recognizes that consumers have a right to receive timely information for a reasonable price. The vast majority of Tele-Publishing, Inc.'s current business is in providing an adjunct to printed publications, which have a two-hundred year history of constitutional protection.

The Federal Communication Commission has a unique and important role to play as the information age unfolds, particularly as it pertains to the regulation of the common carriers. Tele-Publishing, Inc. is particularly concerned about four aspects of the proposed rulemaking: (i) the further abandonment of the principles of common carriage as they relate to the role of the carriers in enforcing FCC policies and other rules, (ii) that ample consideration be given the need of new technologies and developing services, particularly as they relates to the North American Numbering Plan, (iii) that the definition of "pay per call services" clearly not include credit card services, and (iv) that the FCC regulations preempt inconsistent state regulations.

## THE ROLE OF THE CARRIERS

The Commission has not specified specifically the conditions and procedures under which a carrier might terminate pay per call services. Obviously, if a



Tele-Publishing, Inc. is dismayed by what we view as a lamentable erosion of the principles of common carriage and we rely on the Commission to protect our interests and those of our customers-- the American information consumer-- by insuring a complete and robust information marketplace. Carriers ought not be allowed to do what the United States Constitution prohibits our government from doing: censoring speech. It should not be the carriers responsibility to enforce the law, that should be left to law enforcement and the justice system, especially given the pertinent First Amendment considerations.

## NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND THE NUMBERING PLAN

The suggested limit of all pay per call services to the 900 exchange is, in Tele-Publishing, Inc.'s estimation, too restrictive given the nascent stage of our industry and the prospects for technological development. We agree that it is appropriate to prohibit the use of the 800 exchange for paid information services given the public expectation, but to limit all paid services to the 900 exchange would severely hamper the development of new services, for example, the N-1-1 and N-0-0 and other abbreviated dialing services, the "postage stamp network", various POTS information applications now under consideration for the banking and other industries, and the rollout of various

## PREEMPTION

As a simple practical matter, Tele-Publishing, Inc. calls upon the Commission to be aggressive in preempting inconsistent state rules as they pertain to every aspect of the national pay per call marketplace. Ours is a national marketplace and the burden of complying in good faith with a national legal patchwork will stop or industry dead in its tracks. Furthermore, the consumer is best protected by uniform rules, given the national character of our services and the use of national media to promote them.

Tele-Publishing, Inc. appreciates the opportunity to make our positions known about these matters of vital interest to our industry, our company and our customers.

Respectfully submitted  
TELE-PUBLISHING, INC.

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